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Sharee M. Freeman

Director of the Community Relations Service

U.S. Department of Justice

Ms. Sharee Freeman, Director of the Community Relations Service for the US Department of Justice has achieved outstanding accomplishments in the area of promoting positive police-citizen relationships especially as they relate to issues of race, culture and ethnicity.

Under Director Freeman's leadership, the Community Relations Service (CRS) has worked successfully to mediate and resolve conflicts between law enforcement and community groups. She pioneered the "Law Enforcement Mediation/Conflict Resolutions Program" designed to strengthen skills of law enforcement officers to better communicate, investigate, mediate and problem solve in racially diverse communities. She also produced an educational video "The First Three to Five Seconds" addressing hate crimes directed at Arab and Muslim communities and offered insights into the cultural differences within these communities.

Additionally Director Freeman and her staff attend large rallies and demonstrations where racial tension may be present, train volunteers to work alongside police and church groups, and help facilitate and moderate meetings between police and planners to develop contingency plans and help prevent potential conflicts. CRS recently attended the 40th Anniversary March from Selma to Montgomery to perform those duties.

Director Freeman works tirelessly to develop partnerships dedicated to increased police/community communications and relations. She regularly meets with community leaders and law enforcement agencies and travels the country to increase awareness of the need to address issues of racial and ethnic conflict. For her diligent efforts and strong leadership, Director Sharee Freeman was awarded the International Association of Chiefs of Police 2005 Civil Rights Award.